

TAYLOR'S HIAWATHA.

The Coleridge-Taylor Choral Society Captivates Baltimore.—The Chorus and Solo Work Call For the Highest Praise.

The Coleridge-Taylor Choral Society scored another great triumph last Friday, in Baltimore. They sang Coleridge-Taylor's renowned "Hiawatha" to one of the largest audiences ever assembled in Music Hall. Every seat was sold several days before the concert, and hundreds were compelled to stand.

The rendition by chorus, soloists, accompanists and director was a revelation. The work of all was done better and was more effective, than in Washington last April, when the rendi-



MR. S. COLERIDGE TAYLOR, London, E. C., Composer of Hiawatha.

tion created a sensation. The following from the Baltimore News of Nov. 28, tells the story:

A remarkable reproduction of a remarkable work was a Washington Negro Choral Society's performance of S. Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha" at the Lyric yesterday evening.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor is a Negro, born and educated in London, who studied at the Royal College of Music with Dr. Stanford, and who wrote,



PROF. JOHN T. LAYTON, Director of Hiawatha Chorus, Washington, D. C.

while still a student, the first section of the "Hiawatha Trilogy" — "The Wedding Feast." The second section, "The Death of Minnehaha," was composed for the North Staffordshire Music Festival of 1899, and the third, "Hiawatha's Departure," was written for and performed with the preceding sections by the Royal Choral Society at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in 1900.

It would be difficult to praise too highly Coleridge-Taylor's setting of scenes from Longfellow's famous poem. There is not a line of "made" music in the score. It is spontaneous from cover to cover. The musical garb of the poem is so perfectly fitted as to give the impression of their having been conceived simultaneously. The themes are of exquisite beauty, the rhythms forceful and wonderfully de-

scriptive, and the workmanship of a high order of art.

The S. Coleridge-Taylor Choral Society was organized about eighteen months ago and named for the Anglo-African composer. Its first concert was given in Washington last April, when "Hiawatha" was sung.

There was almost nothing at which to cavil in last night's performance, under the directorship of John T. Layton, judging from the best standards, for the work of director, chorus and soloists calls for no plea because of their race.

The director's conception was as refined as the control of his forces was intelligent. The parts of the chorus were well-balanced and the tonal quality sonorous and rich, though the sopranos were shrill when much demand was made upon their register.

Despite unusual difficulties of synopated rhythms and close harmonies, all the choruses were sung with absolute correctness and understanding.

The soloists were Mrs. K. Skeene-Mitchell, soprano, whose voice was adequate, and whose style was admirable; Sydney Woodward, tenor, the possessor of a beautiful voice; J. Gerald Tyler, baritone, an excellent singer. The accompanists—Miss Mary L. Europe, Mrs. R. Pellham and William Braxton—were likewise good, the work of Miss Europe being particularly commendable.

The Lyric was absolutely filled with an audience almost exclusively of colored people, whose attitude was one of wrapt attention. In the boxes were a number of well-known Baltimore musicians.

C. R.

THE SILVER FRONT.

The well known Buffet and Cafe of Gaskins & Gaines, at 8th and D Sts., N. W., has just under gone a complete renovation and a new dress has been placed upon it. The interior decorations are novel and very unique, being hand finished and upholstered in the most up-to-date fashion. Its resemblance is so near that of the interior of a Pullman Palace car or the state room of a great steamer, that the similarity is noticed by the casual visitor. The interior front view is in silver, with darker trimming making it one of the most attractive fronts in the neighborhood. This enterprising firm announces that it is still doing business at the old stand and that there is nothing too good for its patrons.

Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hammond, a newly wedded couple, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent Friday and Saturday in this city on their honeymoon trip. While here they were the guests of the Misses Ward, on Madison street.

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